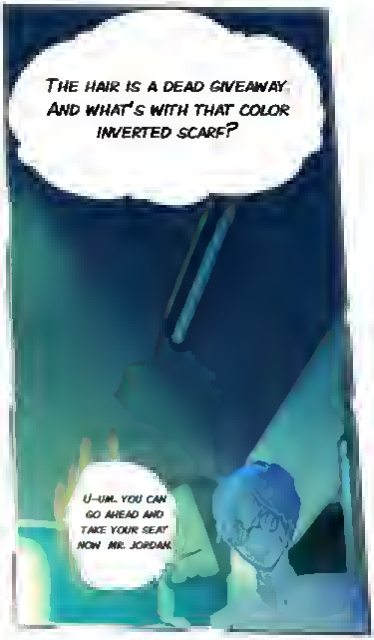
catharsis

By: Ahniki

NO...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
AFTER ALL, HE DOESN'T HAVE A FACE.


THE HAIR IS A DEAD GIVEAWAY. AND WHAT'S WITH THAT COLOR INVERTED SCARF?
U-UM. YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR SEAT NOW MR. JORDAN.

EEP

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
SCARY...

OH GREAT.
HE'S WALKING DOWN MY ROW.

UH. YIKES. I GOT A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE.

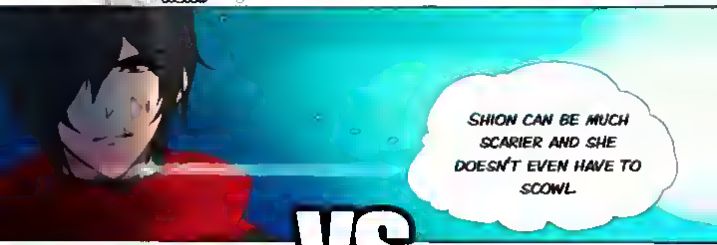
PROBABLY WHY HE WEARS THAT MASK ALL THE TIME.

W-WHAT DID I DO TO PISS HIM OFF SO BADLY?! IS HE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME AGAIN?

HE'S CAUSING A SCENE.

PFFT. I'M NOT GOING TO LET HIM PUSH ME AROUND LIKE THIS IN MY CLASS. IF HE WANTS A STARE DOWN, I'LL GIVE ONE TO HIM!

NOW.



SHION CAN BE MUCH SCARIER AND SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO SCOWL.

VS

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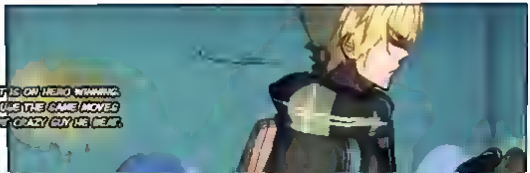
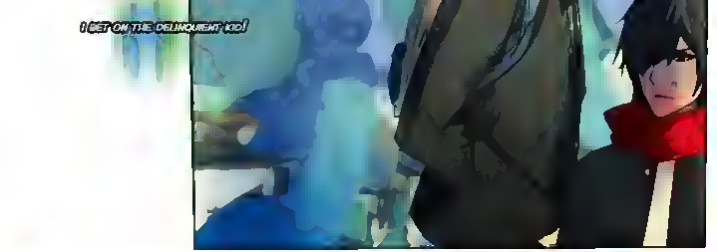
IS HE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH HERO OVER THERE?
WHAT? A FIGHT?
JUST LOOK AT THEM.

AHEM...
MR. JORDAN, PLEASE GET TO YOUR SEAT ALREADY.


MY BET IS ON HERO WINNING. HE'LL USE THE SAME MOVES ON THAT CRAZY GUY HE BEAT.


I BET ON THE DELINQUENT KID!

MUST BE TOUGH.
I GUESS.
SIGH

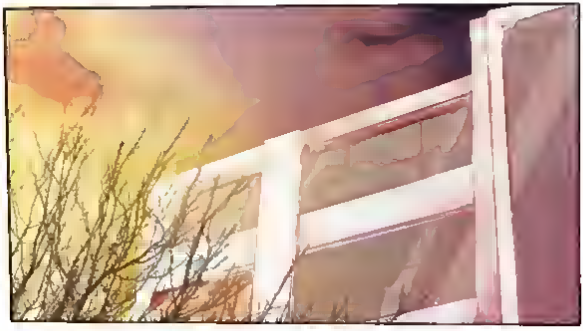
CLATTER

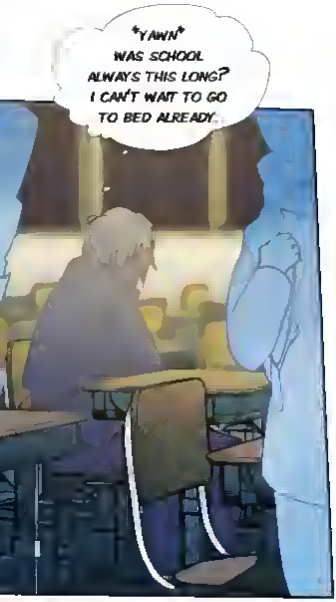
IT'S LIKE HE'S THROWING A TANTRUM OR SOMETHING.

THIS GUY MUST REALLY HATE ME. I COULD FEEL HIS STARE BURNING THROUGH THE BACK OF MY HEAD.

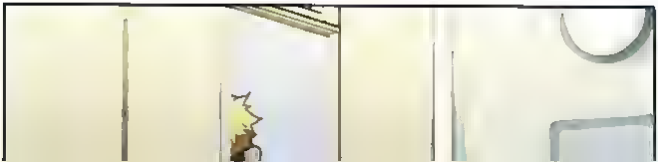
IT'S GONNA BE A LOOONG DAY

AND SO IT WAS.




YAWN
WAS SCHOOL ALWAYS THIS LONG? I CAN'T WAIT TO GO TO BED ALREADY.

SHOULD I TALK TO HIM BEFORE I LEAVE? WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING TOGETHER SO..
GLANCE



HE'S PROBABLY OFF TO REPORT TO HARVEY OR SOMETHING (THE ONLY PERSON HE'S EVER OPEN TO) BUT WHEN IT COMES TO OTHERS, HE'LL JUST PUT UP THAT LONE WOLF ATTITUDE.

OH WELL!
I'VE GOT OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO IF HE DOESN'T WANNA PLAY NICE.

SEE YOU IN CLASS TOMORROW!
?

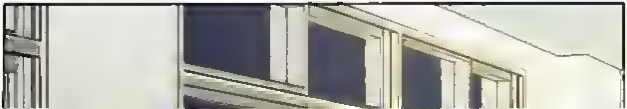
HAVE

IS SHE WAVING TO SOMEONE BEHIND ME OR SOMETHING?

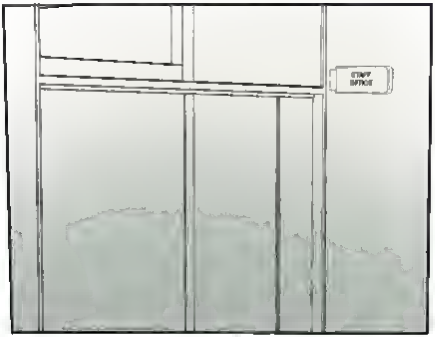
OH..

SHE'S TALKING TO ME..
NOD

HEHE
NOD



WAHH...
IT GOT DARK FAST.
THAT'S WINTER FOR YOU



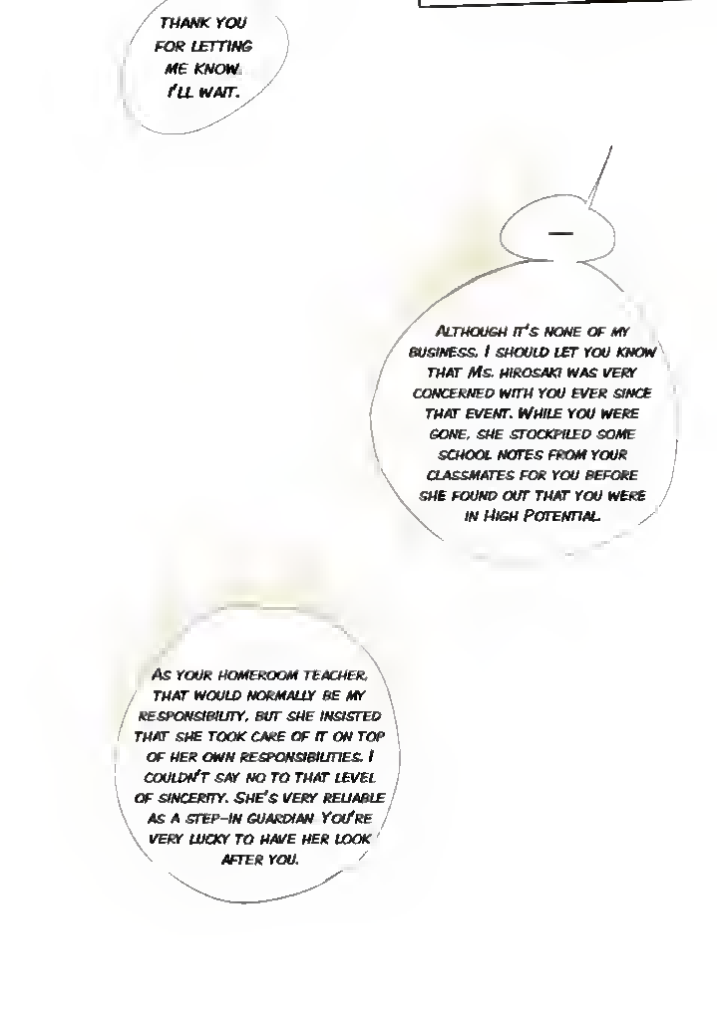
EXCUSE ME.

OH!
MR. LEON MORI.

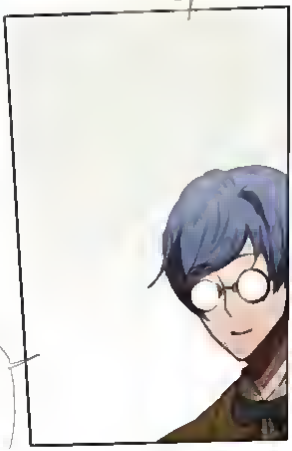
HELLO, MR. TAKANASHI. I'M JUST WAITING FOR MS. HIROSAKI. I HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH HER.

AH... I SEE. SHE'S IN THE BACK ROOM FILING SOME PAPERS. SHE'LL BE OUT SOON

DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?


THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME KNOW. I'LL WAIT.
—
ALTHOUGH IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW THAT MS. HIROSAKI WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH YOU EVER SINCE THAT EVENT. WHILE YOU WERE GONE, SHE STOCKPILED SOME SCHOOL NOTES FROM YOUR CLASSMATES FOR YOU BEFORE SHE FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE IN HIGH POTENTIAL.
AS YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER, THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE MY RESPONSIBILITY, BUT SHE INSISTED THAT SHE TOOK CARE OF IT ON TOP OF HER OWN RESPONSIBILITIES. I COULDN'T SAY NO TO THAT LEVEL OF SINCERITY. SHE'S VERY RELIABLE AS A STEP-IN GUARDIAN. YOU'RE VERY LUCKY TO HAVE HER LOOK AFTER YOU.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOU IN CLASS AGAIN LEON



BE SURE TO DO WELL WITH YOUR STUDIES SO THAT MS. HIROSAKI COULD REST EASY NOW.

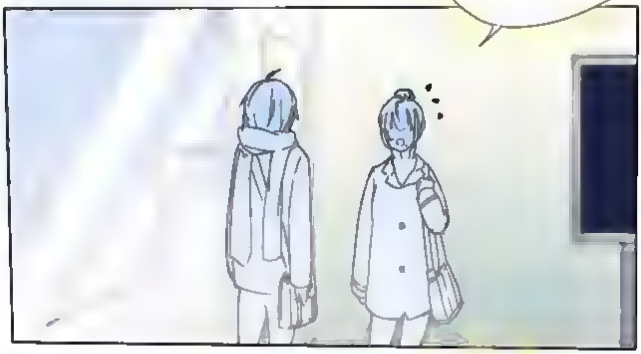
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN

TOMORROW

I'LL DO MY BEST. SEE YOU TOMORROW MR. TAKANASHI.

OH! LEON!

YOU GOT HERE FASTER THAN I EXPECTED



SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT.

IT'S COOL.

THEN LET'S GET GOING.

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF

EXPLAINING TO DO.

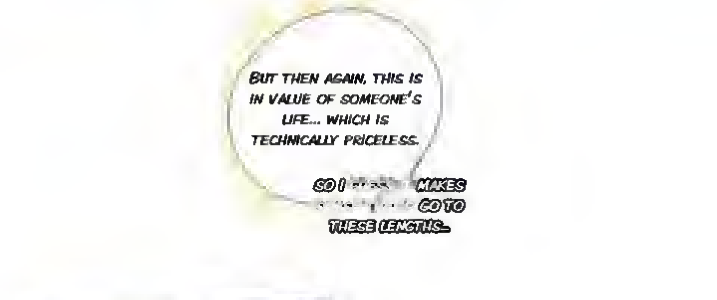
DURING THE WALK HOME, TOLD AMI ALL THE ALIBIS THAT HARVEY COACHED ME TO SAY.

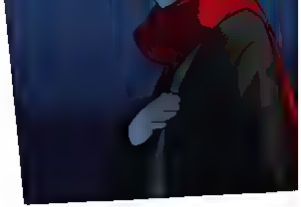
IT FELT WRONG TO LIE TO HER SO OPENLY, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THE ACTUAL TRUTH WOULD HAVE MADE SENSE EITHER.

BUT IN THE END, IT IS ALL TO HER PROTECT HER.

YEAH... I'M KIND OF GLAD I LEFT THOUGH, I REALLY COULDN'T LIVE LIKE A ROBOT WITH THE WAY THEY WORKED ME.

BUT IT STILL ALL FEELS A LITTLE TOO SUSPICIOUS TO ME. THEY TAKE YOU IN AND THEN LET YOU GO—JUST LIKE THAT?
PLUS, IT WAS LIKE YOU DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACE OF THE PLANET.


BUT THEN AGAIN, THIS IS IN VALUE OF SOMEONE'S LIFE... WHICH IS TECHNICALLY PRICELESS.
SO I MAKES
GO TO
THESE LENGTHS...



WAAHH,
IT SURE IS COLD.

I CAN'T FEEL MY FACE..
IS MY NOSE RUNNING OR
NOT?

AT LEAST I HAVE MY HAIR TO COVER
UP MY EARS IN THIS WEATHER...
HEH HEH HEH

WELL THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR WEARING SO LITTLE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE CHECKED THE WEATHER ON YOUR PHONE BEFORE COMING BACK HOME.

BY THE WAY--

IS THAT GUY A FRIEND OF YOURS? I NOTICED HIM FOLLOWING US A WHILE BACK. NEVER SEEN HIM AROUND SCHOOL BEFORE.

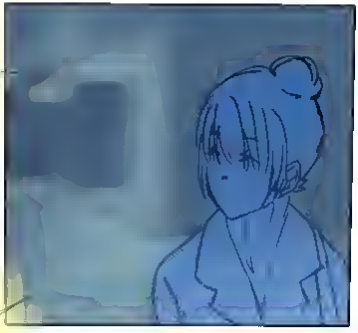
SO SHE NOTICED HIM TOO, HUH?

NO... NOT REALLY. HE TRANSFERRED INTO MY CLASS TODAY.

I THINK HE SAID HE LIVES AROUND HERE..OR SOMETHING.

DON'T MIND HIM

...THAT'S KIND OF MEAN. WHY DON'T YOU OFFER TO WALK HOME WITH HIM OR SOMETHING?



BE NICE TO THE NEW KID. HE WOULD PROBABLY APPRECIATE MAKING A FRIEND IN AN UNFAMILIAR SCHOOL. WHY DON'T YOU WAVE HIM OVER?

I WISH THAT WAS THE CASE.

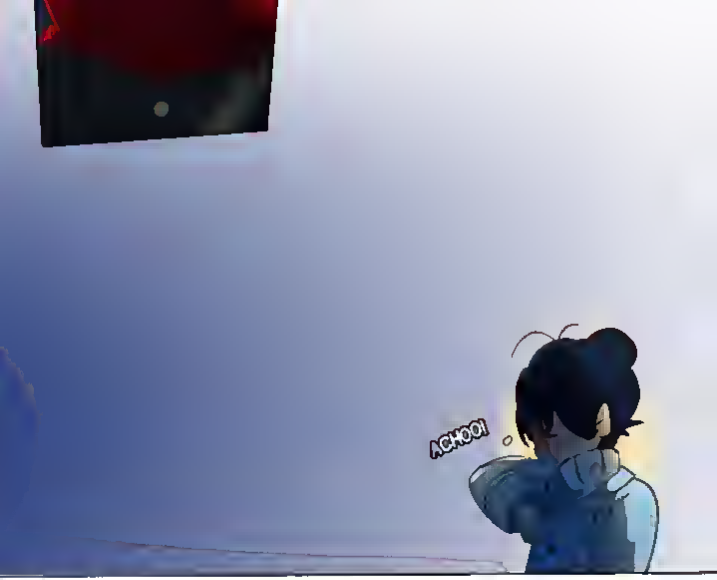
NO... UH.. IT'S FINE.

HE DIDN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE HE'S INTERESTED IN OPENING UP TO PEOPLE. HE LOOKS A LITTLE SCARY.

--AND UNAPPROACHABLE. AHAH

NO... I REALLY. REALLY WISH THAT WERE THE CASE THOUGH.

RIGHT... SORRY.


ACHOO!

...FOR NOW WE SHOULD HURRY HOME BEFORE THE COLD ENDS UP KILLING US.

YEAH.

YEP— HEAD HOME AND FORGET ABOUT THE OBVIOUS GUY WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE BLENDING IN UNDERCOVER.

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